

Logan Circles

BY MARK F. JOHNSON

Goin' to the Chapel, and We're Gonna Get Married...

With the enactment of DC's equal marriage law at the beginning of the month, I do believe many Logan Circle couples are probably singing or humming the old Dixie Cups 1960's hit, "Chapel of Love." What better way to celebrate spring's new beginning than with an "I do"?

On the morning of March 3, the day the law went into effect, about 50 same-gender District couples marched down to the District court's marriage bureau to register for a marriage license. How much would anyone want to bet that a great number of those seeking to tie the knot, now that they can, live here in Logan Circle? Washington, DC, is now the sixth jurisdiction nationally to allow same-gender couples to marry, although the trip to the chapel had many attempted roadblocks courtesy of opponents to marriage equality, almost all of whom live in other states.

Go Mama Go! is Almost Gone

As much as 14th Street's quirky Go Mama Go! founder Noie Chudnoff was a friend and supporter of Washington's gay community, I would bet that many same-gender



Go Mama Go! located on 14th Street NW near S Street closes in two weeks after operating for nine years. Photo: Mark F. Johnson

couples might register at the store for wedding gifts. The sad news, though, is that there's only about 15 shopping days left because the store will be closing at the end of March. Noie, now-deceased, left the reins to her husband, Jonathan, and he has decided to call it quits after slumping sales over the past two years.

"I've loved it here," he told me. "We've made so many good friends." He added that it is definitely hard to leave.

While 14th Street is much more of a shopping destination now than when the store first opened in 2001, the street is pretty much becoming a victim of its own success. As new condos continue to

go up and townhomes change hands, more folks with disposable income move into the Logan Circle/U Street community, making it more of a target for restaurateurs, higher-end shops and national chain stores. Chudnoff said that he is concerned that 14th is becoming more of a night street with several new restaurants and bars opening up, many within the past few months and more slated to burst on the scene within the next few months. "It might become more of a replication of Adams Morgan before you know it," he bemoaned.

One Door Closes... Another Furniture Store Opens

Soon to open Room and Board is apparently moving along on schedule for its April/May opening, according to the chain's New York-based visual director. She came down the other week to check on the progress of the store's first DC location at the corner of 14th and T streets, in the former auto dealership building that has sat empty for way too many years.

A fourth level is being added to the building, which was gutted and is being made brand new for the Minneapolis-based furniture seller, which bought the building last year. According to store sources, it made sense for them to move to Washington because a significant amount of sales at the New York store were being delivered to Washington, DC, residents and specifically to Columbia Heights /U Street/Logan Circle addresses.

The DC store will be a bit larger than the New York store. It will look "fabulous," as I hear it, and be filled with items that will also look great in the homes and condos in Washington, DC, and especially in Logan Circle. The store will be open



A rendering of the new Room and Board at 14th and T streets NW opening later this spring.



A 15th street resident turns a downed tree limb at 15th and Corcoran streets NW into firewood.

seven days a week, and they are expecting a lot of foot traffic.

Keep the Home Fires Burning

Wasn't it a doozy??!! We will be talking about the Blizzard of 2010 for some time to come, I'm pretty sure. I took a walk down 14th Street after storms one and two hit in February. I went along P Street and back up 15th Street, snapping photos of Washington's white winter. In addition to the cabin-fever-free Loganites that I saw out walking with dogs and coffee cups during those snowy days, I caught lots of downed trees with my camera. Many of them were in the middle of the street or on the middle of someone's car roof. While that was a bad scene, I didn't hear about anyone actually getting hurt by downed trees or falling dead in the snow. I guess we all survived it fairly well.

In fact, some residents near the intersection of 15th and Corcoran made good use of a downed tree – they cut the branches and used them for firewood. There's no doubt that those residents were ready for a roaring fire after a few minutes (or hours) of walking around in the heaps of snow. With all the days that many locals had off work, they probably had a lot of time to sit by the fire and reflect on how great the Logan life really is.

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